

COUNTY OF RICHLAND
OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER



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COUNTY TREASURER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, 20 August 2008

**Richland County Treasurer David Adams Asks Leaders
to Remove Parking Meters**

Mayor Robert D. Coble
City of Columbia
PO Box 147
Columbia, SC 29217

Chairman Joseph McEachern
Richland County Council
PO Box 3751
Columbia, SC 29230

Mr. Mayor and Mr. Chairman:

Our office is in the Richland County Administration Building, located at the corner of Hampton and Harden Streets. Since I started as your County Treasurer on July 1 of 2003 - collecting the taxes for the county, its municipalities and subdivisions - one of our largest complaints has been with parking.

It would be safe to estimate that more than 70% of the people who come to this building do so to clear up tax problems, or to perform their civic duty to pay their taxes. Each month, we have over 12,000 people pay their taxes by coming into our office, and we help more than 2,000 others who walk in for help, or with questions.

These citizens are coming to pay their fair share. In many cases, people are driving in from the Northeast, Southeast or other parts of the county - and they have to exhaust two to three gallons of gas (at \$3.50/gallon as we all know) just to come pay us the taxes that operate our city and county.

I have long had problems with our parking situation at this location. Recently, the county has added dozens of new parking meters to compliment the dozens of city meters around our building.

We have meters everywhere - Hampton St., Harden St., Lady St., and in our public/employee parking lot. And, these meters serve no business purposes. People aren't leaving their cars around the administration building for hours and frustrating other citizens. People come here, conduct their business, pay their taxes, and leave.

Paying a toll, in this case, is an unseemly nuisance we should not ask our citizens to endure. People should not be charged extra to pay their taxes. So, I ask you Mr. Mayor and Mr. Chairman, tear down these meters (or, at least, bag them and don't use them anymore)!

All the Best,

David A. Adams
Richland County Treasurer